

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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234-2026-1745

May 26, 2026

Mayor Bill Steele

mayor@portcolborne.ca

Dear Mayor Steele,

As you may be aware, on May 7, 2026, the *Better Regional Governance Act, 2026* received Royal Assent.

I am pleased to share that I have made regulations ([O.Reg. 140/26](#)) following requests from Port Colborne to change the makeup of its council. Under the new regulation, Port Colborne council will be reduced from eight to six councillors, plus the mayor. The city will have three wards, with two councillors elected in each ward, as outlined in the regulation. I have also made regulations, ([O.Reg. 141/26](#)), which sets out how nomination papers already filed under the previous ward structure will be handled.

These changes will come into effect for the 2026-2030 municipal council term, starting on November 15, 2026, and the 2026 municipal election will be conducted as though these changes are already in effect. The current composition of your council will remain the same until the new council is sworn in following the election.

Our government is committed to working with municipalities to identify ways to strengthen local governance. Working together to advance shared provincial-municipal priorities helps advance housing and economic development, preparing both individual municipalities and the province as-a-whole for growth.

Thank you and please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert J. Flack".

Hon. Robert J. Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

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